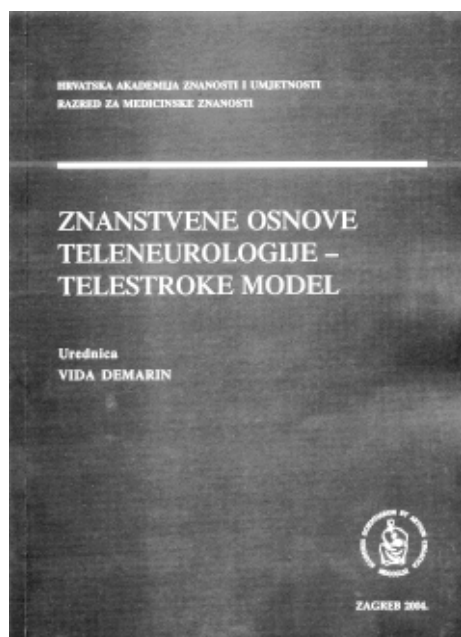


BOOK REVIEW



ZNANSTVENE OSNOVE TELENEUROLOGIJE – TELESTROKE MODEL (THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF TELENEUROLOGY – TELESTROKE MODEL), by Vida Demarin, editor. *Croatian Academy of Arts and Science, Section of Medical Sciences, Zagreb, 2004, 121 pages; ISBN 953-154-641-X.*

The book “The Scientific Basis of Teleneurology – Telestroke Model” edited by Professor Vida Demarin brings papers presented at the Scientific Basis of Teleneurology – Telestroke Model meeting held on March 21, 2003, at Croatian Academy of Arts and Science, organized by the Academy Section of Medical Sciences.

All most relevant parts of teleneurology are presented in the book, along with theoretical basis to connect departments of neurology and stroke units into a modern telecommunication network that will enable exchange of data on patients treated at stroke units and consultation with distant experts in real time, known as Telestroke model.

The contributions in the book can be viewed as being divided into two main sections. The first section includes papers presenting options offered by use of teleneurology and development of Telestroke model in daily neurologist’s routine, whereas the second section tackles computer, telecommunication, network and software aspects of the use of teleneurology and development of Telestroke model.

The first section begins with the paper entitled “Scientific basis of stroke diagnosis and therapy”, in which Vida Demarin presents the basis of modern stroke diagnosis and care of stroke patients. Great advances have been achieved in the understanding of stroke as well as in diagnostic and therapeutic options for stroke during and after the Decade of Brain (1990-2000). In the next paper, “Stroke network with regional stroke care units and high speed telemedicine in Germany – the Telemedic Pilot Project of an Integrative Stroke Care in Eastern Bavaria (TEMPIS)”, J. Scheklel and H.J. Audebert from Munich present their initial experience in the use of teleconsultation model in eastern Bavaria. Minor hospital centers are connected with two large university centers which organize 24-hour consultation service. Great possibilities and advantages of using modern computer-telecommunication technology in daily routine are described. The quality of work and care of stroke patients have been considerably improved and economic savings achieved.

In the paper entitled “Teleneurology and Telestroke project” by Vida Demarin and Miljenka-Jelena Kesić give an account of the history, development, main postulates and present possibilities of teleneurology, along with the use of telemedicine methods in connecting stroke care units into a unique computer network. The paper “Neurosonology and neurovascular system” by Vida Demarin and Arijana Lovrenčić-Huzjan describes the possibilities of neurosonology data and finding transfer *via* telecommunication network, thus enabling consultation for distant professionals to solve diagnostically vague findings. Great possibilities offered by telecommunication networks in tele-education are also emphasized.

The contribution entitled “Teleneurorehabilitation” by Vesna Šerić and Marina Roje-Bedeković presents the pos-

sibilities to improve patient rehabilitation by use of current computer-telecommunication technologies. The methods of telerehabilitation enable better patient follow up upon their transfer to rehabilitation institutions and discharge for home care. The outcome of rehabilitation is also greatly improved by use of modern telerehabilitation methods.

The second section of the book begins with the paper "The possibilities of videoconference technologies in teleneurology" by Zlatko Jelačić, presenting the Croatian Academic Network (CARNet), which offers the users a rapid and high quality data transfer. CARNet allows for videoconference linking between distant users. As the use of CARNet is free of charge for CARNet member institutions, it enables connecting all Croatian hospitals into a unique computer network without any additional burden upon hospital budget.

In their contribution entitled "Elements of network cooperation in telemedicine or telemedicine organization of asynchronous knowledge management", Zlatko Papeš, Davorin Bengez, Vesna Kirinić-Papeš, Paško Konjevoda and Zvonko Rešetar present the basic grounds for the development of computer networks, with special reference to new options of using network technology by use of latest logical and semantic applications.

The paper "The possibilities of the Neuronet software in stroke care" by Zlatko Trkanjec describes the possibilities of this program, which has been developed to facilitate the entry, search and processing of data collected in daily neurologist's work with patients. The potential use of Neuronet in Telestroke model is also presented.

The book "The Scientific Basis of Teleneurology – Telestroke Model" makes a valuable contribution to the understanding of current options offered by telemedicine

and teleneurology in particular. All essential parts of teleneurology are presented and described at a high scientific level. The Telestroke model is thoroughly discussed, emphasizing the organization of connecting all stroke units within the Republic of Croatia into the computer-telecommunication network allowing for exchange and transfer of data on the patient treated at the units. The Telestroke model allows for better quality of stroke care irrespective of the location, providing uniform patient care by use of computer-telecommunication technology. The model also implies considerable financial savings, as stroke patients need not be transported to large hospital centers for consultation.

This book will certainly be an unavoidable source of data and new concepts for all those who are or will be engaged in telemedicine and teleneurology. Besides many others, it will be of great value to neurologists dealing with the management of stroke patients.

The book "The Scientific Basis of Teleneurology – Telestroke Model" was presented in Lecture Hall of Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital on Tuesday, November 30, 2004, by Academician Zvonko Kusić, secretary of the Section of Medical Sciences, Croatian Academy of Arts and Science, as reviewer of the book; Assist. Professor Radoslav Herman, M.D., Ph.D., head, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital; Professor Ivica Klapan, M.D., Ph.D., president, Croatian Society of Telemedicine, Croatian Medical Association; Professor Niko Zurak, M.D., Ph.D., acting head, University Department of Neurology, Zagreb University Hospital Center; Vesna Vrga, grad. engineer, deputy head, CARNet; and Professor Vida Demarin, M.D., Ph.D., head, University Department of Neurology, Sestre milosrdnice University Hospital and editor of the book.

Zlatko Trkanjec

HISTORICAL REVIEW

The first monograph of our Hospital was published twenty years ago¹. While Sisters of Mercy have provided a thorough description of the Hospital's early history in their first book², as Sisters of Mercy founded and initially owned the Hospital, the 1985 monograph was the first book dedicated exclusively to the Hospital.

This well designed and richly illustrated book was edited by Professor Vladimir Hudolin, a psychiatrist and alcoholologist, then Editor-in-Chief of the Hospital journal. In his foreword, Professor Hudolin expressed due gratitude to Sisters of Mercy for their historical contributions (numerous original documents that were then first published), emphasizing their role in the Hospital's history. It was the first time that Sisters of Mercy were officially mentioned in public.

The book contained contributions by heads of all Hospital university departments and departments, along with

my first bibliography of Hospital papers, a list of all Hospital employees, and structural profile of the Hospital. Today, the book provides historical evidence on the Hospital in the 1990s, on its structure, employees and overall performance. In the next decades, the book served as a model for new books on the Hospital^{3,4}.

Tanja Sušec

References

1. Klinička bolnica "Dr Mladen Stojanović", Zagreb, 1845.-1985. Zagreb, 1985.
2. Kratka povijest Družbe sestara milosrdnica Sv. Vinka Paulskoga u Zagrebu. Zagreb: Vrhovno tajništvo družbe, 1935.
3. Stopedeseta obljetnica Kliničke bolnice "Sestre milosrdnice" 1846.-1996. Zagreb, 1997.
4. Stopedesetpeti obljetnica 1846.-2001. Zagreb, 2001.



INTERNET GUIDANCE

EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY ON HEALTH SYSTEMS AND POLICIES

This is certainly one of interesting web addresses of European origin, dedicated to health care and health policy of European countries, analysis of the system, developmental dynamics in European Community and in particular countries, research, debates, publications and meetings on the mentioned topics. In addition, it contains comprehensive announcement of a congress on the topics in Europe, to be held in Chantilly near Paris on April 7-8, 2005, along with summit of European health ministers.

<http://www.euro.who.int/observatory>

Tanja Sušec

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